



## Council

29 January 2019

<b>Title</b>	<b>Civic Link with Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein, Germany</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All Wards
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

Council are requested to pass a resolution to reaffirm the municipal link between the London Borough of Barnet and Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein in advance of a delegation from Barnet visiting the district in April 2019.

### Officers Recommendations

1. That the Council of the London Borough of Barnet reaffirms the Municipal Link between the London Borough of Barnet and Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein which has been established for the purposes of furthering good will between the two communities through the exchange of views and ideas and by personal contact among the citizens of the two towns, and that the Council sincerely hope that the link will prosper and flourish in the coming years.

**2. That an engrossment on vellum of the foregoing resolution over the Common Seal of the Corporation be presented to the representatives of the Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 The London Borough of Barnet has ‘twin town’ civic links with: Chaville, France; Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein, Germany; Le Raincy, France; Montclair, USA; Morphou, Cyprus; Ramat Gan, Israel; and Tempelhof, Germany. In addition, there are two towns – Jinja in Uganda and Barnet in the state of Vermont in the USA with which the Council is linked but by correspondence only.
- 1.2 Running alongside the twinning are the “friends” organisations which formed in Barnet to maintain contact with their counterparts at grass roots level. The friends organise visits to and from their respective twin towns independently of the Council. They maintain much closer and regular contact than the Council. Should there be an official visit to Barnet by a civic delegation from one of the town towns, the Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager will liaise with the appropriate friends organisation so that they can be involved in the visit.
- 1.3 Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein was twinned with the then Borough of Finchley in 1951. Links with Germany were promoted by the British Government. The links were mainly educational with student exchanges taking place. The last civic visit took place in November 2018 when representatives from the district attended Armistice events in Barnet.
- 1.4 Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein have invited the Mayor, Mayoress and Mayoral Services & Civic Events Manager to come to the district in April 2019 to officially announce and reaffirm the partnership between Barnet and Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein. Due to the lack of availability of the formal record of the twinning between the Borough of Finchley and Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein, Council are requested to pass the resolution detailed in recommendation 1. above in order that the resolution can be presented to the representatives of the Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein when representatives from Barnet visit in April 2019.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 As set out in section 1 above.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Council could decide not to pass a resolution to reaffirm the civic link between Barnet and the Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein. This is not recommended as Kreis Siegen

Wittgenstein have requested that Barnet affirm their links with the district during the visit in April 2019.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The Mayor's Office will organise for the resolution to be printed on vellum, signed and sealed for presentation to representatives of Kreis Siegen Wittgenstein.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 N/A

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 Any cost associated with town twinning arrangements are met from the Mayoral Services and Civic Events budget.

##### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The promotion of civic links with Barnet's twin towns enhances community cohesion and develops international cooperation.

##### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 On 22 January 1997, the Policy & Resources Committee agreed that a special meeting of the Council should be convened for the purposes of establishing a civic link. The resolution above is a reaffirmation of a civic link agreed in 1951 by the council's successor in title, the Borough of Finchley. As such, a decision of Council rather than a decision of a special meeting of the Council, is appropriate to pass the resolution detailed in recommendation 1. above.

##### **5.5 Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 N/A

##### **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.6.1 N/A

##### **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

- 5.7.1 N/A

##### **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.8.1 N/A

## 5.8 **Insight**

5.8.1 N/A

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Council, 7 March 1995, Proposed Municipal Link with Morphou, Cyprus – a Special Council meeting passed a resolution to form a municipal link with Morphou in Cyprus.
- 6.2 Policy & Resources Committee, 22 January 1997, Town Twinning – the Chief Executive presented a report on town twinning arrangements where the committee resolved that the establishment of a civic link should be via a resolution agreed at a special meeting of the Council in addition to various other matters relating to town twinning